

21. (New) The method of Claim 1, wherein the relational database is disposed on an intermediate node on the network.

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22. (New) The method of Claim 11, wherein the relational database is disposed on an intermediate node on the network.

REMARKS

Applicants have carefully reviewed the Office Action dated November 8, 2002. Applicants have amended Claims 1 and 11 and added new Claims 21 and 22 to more clearly point out the present inventive concept. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Regarding the Information Disclosure Statement (IDS), Applicants submit concurrently herewith a true copy of the IDS and the Form 1449 that Applicants mailed on September 27, 2000 and that was received in the Office of Initial Patent Examination (OIPE) as indicated on the return postcard. A copy of the return postcard is also enclosed. Applicants respectfully request the entry of this IDS and consideration of the references therein.

Claims 1-20 stand rejected under 35 §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Perkowski* (U.S. 5,918,214A). This rejection is respectfully traversed with respect to the amended claims.

Applicants' present inventive concept, as defined by the amended claims, is directed toward a system that is operable to scan a product code which is associated with a product. This step of scanning the product code automatically routes the user location to the database location on the network. When the database location receives this extracted product code, it then compares the extracted product code with pre-stored relationships, which relationships define destination locations on the network. If there is a match, an instructional code is then generated. This is described beginning at page 18, line 17 of the Specification. Thus, once the computer at the user's location transmits the extracted product code information to the database location, the operation is essentially "handed off" to the database location.

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

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The database location then generates a “command” in the form of instructional code that is transmitted back to the user computer such that the user computer is then controlled by the database location. As such, the entire operation is transparent to the user PC and there is no software other than the browser that is required on the user location in order effect the routing of the user computer to the destination location, i.e., there is no action required by the user PC.

Perkowski operates somewhat distinctly from Applicants’ invention as claimed. *Perkowski* does provide a relational database that contains relationships between such things as UPCs, UPNs and the such with respect to locations on the networks regarding a corresponding URL. However, it is the manner in which the connection is facilitated that is different than that associated with Applicants’ invention as defined by the amended claims. In *Perkowski*, the user is required to execute a number of steps in order to obtain access to information on a remote location. First, the user must pull up a browser page on the GUI-based browser screen. At Col. 11, beginning at line 19, there is language that indicates that a UPSN must be provided to the server S_b first and, in response to this operation, then the client system will request the IPSD server S_b to provide a registered URL. However, in block A of Figure 4A, the language seems to indicate that this first step is not necessarily required. As such, if the specification can be read that the client system C_a sends a request to the IPS directory server to provide a registered URL in response to providing it with the UPSN, then the language of Col. 11, line 32 indicates the operation of the client system C_a sending a request is all that is required. This system is operable to first receive the URL and then perform the operation of requesting the IPSI server, which is identified by the URL that was received by the client system C_a , to provide product service information located at the registered URL. This language is that of a system that must first *receive* the URL and then perform some operation thereon. This is clearly in contradistinction to that claimed by Applicants’ amended claims in that there is no command code structure that allows the node location of the relational database to actually force the user’s PC to “jump” to the destination location.

As a further note, there is some language in *Perkowski* relating to the step of “automatically accessing” the Internet. In Col. 2, line 65 to Col. 3, line 2, there is language that indicates that a UPSN can be input to the system, the product or service registered with the system then automatically accessed

from the Internet and then displayed through the act of simply entering the UPN or USN into the Internet browser. Again, this requires a step of opening a browser window and then entering the information. However, the remaining part of the specification still discloses only that the client system must request and receive the URL and then act upon the URL, i.e., it is the client system C_a that must make the decision to actually go out and access the destination location rather than, as is set forth in Applicants' present amended claims, allow the database location to actually control the user's PC completely transparent to the user PC.

In view of the above, Applicants believe that the *Perkowski* reference does not anticipate or obviate Applicants' present inventive concept, as defined by the amended claims, since *Perkowski* requires not only the opening of a browser in order to input information thereto, which information must be received by the browser plug-in (plug-in required to operate, Col. 6, lines 39-44), and then the client system C_a actually performing the operation of accessing the information. Although there are indications that this operation is automatic, it is automatic only under the control of the user's computer and not under the control of the destination location. As such, the destination location in Applicants' invention is operable to "push" the information to the user computer at the client system location in an instructional format and force that computer to "jump" to the appropriate destination location.

Applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner U.S. Patent No. 5,978,773, issued to *Hudetz et al.*, a reference provided in the IDS. This reference also provides for an automatic linking to a website, it also being noted with respect to this patent that the automatic operation requires information to be returned to the user computer and then some selection performed by the user computer before actually accessing a website. Applicants believe that this reference is no more relevant than *Perkowski* with respect to this operation.

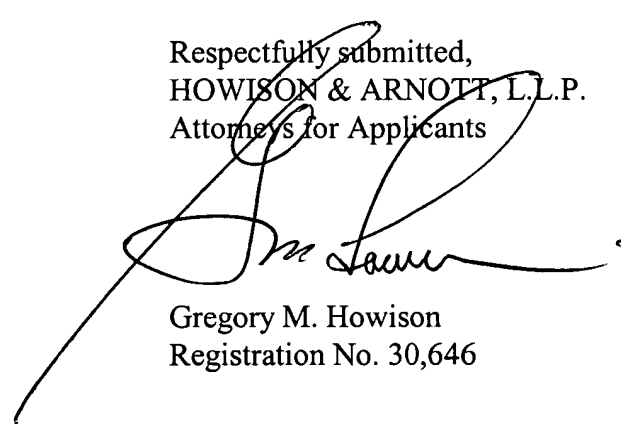
Further, Claim 11, newly added in the Applicants' response to the previous *Office Action*, is also amended in the foregoing amendment to include the limitations incorporated into the amended Claim 1. Thus, Claim 11 is now believed to be clearly distinguishable from *Perkowski* because the reference does not disclose the structure and the process steps as recited in the amended Claim 11. Applicants

respectfully request the withdrawal of this rejection.

As to dependent Claims 2-10 and 12-20, the rejection of these claims, which include all of the limitations of the respective base Claims 1 and 11 because they depend directly or ultimately from the respective base claims, which are now believed to be distinguished from *Perkowski*, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of these rejections and the full allowance of Claims 1-20 as amended.

Applicants have now made an earnest attempt in order to place this case in condition for allowance and in better form for consideration on appeal. For the reasons stated above, Applicants respectfully request full allowance of the claims as amended. This amendment is necessary because of the reference to the *Hudetz* patent cited in a related patent application, which appears pertinent to the present application. Please charge any additional fees or deficiencies in fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 20-0780/PHLY-24,734 of HOWISON & ARNOTT, L.L.P.

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE



1. (Twice Amended) A method for interfacing a user location on a network to a destination location on the network, comprising the steps of:

scanning a bar code having product information contained therein relating to an associated product, which bar code has no network routing information contained therein;

extracting product information from the bar code;

defining routing information over the network from the user location to the destination location in direct response to the steps of scanning and extracting, which routing information defines the location of the destination location on the network, the step of defining including the steps of: [; and]

accessing a relational database at a location on the network containing a relationship between product information and predefined destination locations on the network, which relational database is operable to determine the one of the predefined destination locations associated with the extracted product

information;

transmitting to the relational database the extracted product

information;

instructional code generated at the database location on the network defining an instruction to cause the user location to be connected to at least one predefined destination defined by the relationship stored in the relational database in association with the transmitted extracted product information;

receiving from the relational database the generated instructional code containing routing information associated with the extracted product information; and

interconnecting the user location to the destination location in accordance with instructional code containing the defined routing information, which step of interconnecting occurs in direct response to the steps of scanning, extracting and defining [with no user intervention] after the step of scanning.

11. (Amended) A method for interfacing a user location on a network to a destination location on the network, comprising the steps of:

scanning a bar code having product information contained therein relating to an associated product with a scanner, which bar code has no network routing information contained therein;

in direct response to the step of scanning, extracting product information contained within the bar code for conversion in an interface device to keyboard data input to a PC at the user location in combination with a scanner ID;

in direct response to the step of extracting, defining routing information over the network from the user location to the destination location in response to the steps of scanning and extracting, which routing information defines the location of the destination location on the network, the step of defining including the steps of: [; and]

accessing a relational database at a database location on the network containing a relationship between product information and predefined destination locations on the network, which relational database is operable to determine the one of the predefined destination locations associated with the extracted product information;

transmitting to the relational database the extracted product information;

instructional code generated at the database location on the network defining an instruction to cause the user location to be connected to at least one predefined destination defined by the relationship stored in the relational database in association with the transmitted extracted product information;

receiving from the relational database the generated instructional code containing routing information associated with the extracted product information; and

in direct response to the step of defining, interconnecting the user

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location to the destination location in accordance with instructional code containing
the defined routing information.
